



DECEMBER 2021

Bits & Bytes

Newsletter of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association

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Counselor Workshops Return to School Sites

The 2021 ISFAA Counselor Workshops are over for another year, but this series featured a very well received return to events that were not virtual! Over 640 counselors registered for one of the 13 workshops that featured ISFAA presenters along with experts from the Commission for Higher Education.

The 2021 edition covered updates on state and federal aid, important changes that are coming, best practices for helping students and families in the financial aid process and much more.

As always a big thank you goes out to our friends from the Commission who presented at every workshop, the ISFAA experts giving their time for this important initiative, and of course the schools that opened their doors in the time of a pandemic to make this all possible. And offered coffee, juice, & mini donuts as well!

The survey responses came back overwhelmingly positive, and the hope for 2022 is another successful group of workshops and even more attendees to join in the fun!



more photos continued on page 2

COUNSELOR WORKSHOPS RETURN TO SCHOOL SITES — CONTINUED



more photos continued on page3

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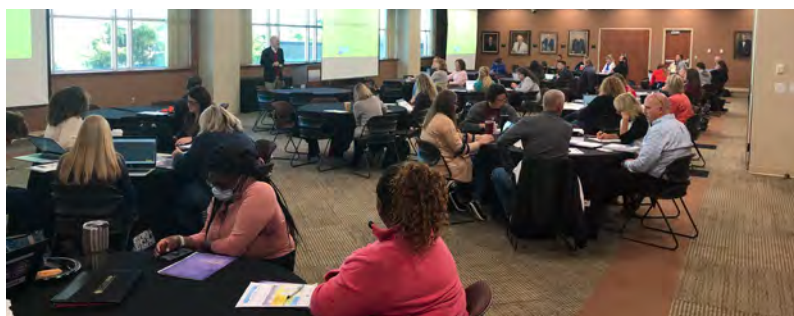


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COUNSELOR WORKSHOPS RETURN TO SCHOOL SITES — CONTINUED



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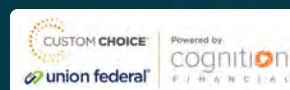
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President's Perspective

As I sit down to write my final President's Perspective, I cannot believe how quickly my year of presidency has gone by. I feel very blessed to have been surrounded by such a supportive group of colleagues both at work and within ISFAA. The support I received from everyone was truly appreciated and meant so much to me.

What has happened this year?

I started my year as president knowing that COVID-19 has impacted ISFAA. I felt like we didn't have as many people volunteering and I was questioning what members needed from ISFAA. My goal has been and still is for ISFAA to serve as a resource for financial aid professionals in Indiana. This goal is why I started the Brown Bag Lunch Series. The series was used to help ISFAA members learn more about our committees and volunteering. I am happy to say that through these meetings most committees gained new committee members for this year and/or for 2022. Although numbers at some of the meetings were small, discussions had during the meetings were all very informative.

The next action taken during this year was our Membership Survey. This survey is something that President-Elect Lisa Bridgewater and I put together to help plan for the future. The intent of the survey was to gather more information about what the memberships wants/needs from ISFAA. I am very happy to report that 172 ISFAA members completed the survey, I would like to thank everyone for their participation. I would also like to congratulate Amanda Fishman on being selected as the winner of the free conference registration.

What is next for ISFAA?

I am happy to report there are some exciting things on the horizon for ISFAA. The Executive Committee has approved bringing in consultants to help ISFAA make a strategic plan. Under Lisa's leadership in 2022, the consultants (along with the Strategic Plan Committee) will use the information gathered in our membership survey and various other communications to create a plan that will be revealed at the 2023 conference. At the ISFAA 2022 Winter Conference you will have the opportunity to hear more about this process and meet the consultants. The consultants we will be working with helped MASFAA and a couple other state organizations with developing their strategic plan. As I mentioned this is an exciting time for ISFAA and under Lisa's leadership this process will benefit our members for many years to come.

What is next for me?

Well since I have not recently hit the lottery, I will not be riding off into the sunset! As past-president I will continue to serve on the board and help Lisa with whatever she needs. As a true introvert this year has been a test for me, but an experience that I am happy I followed through with. Like I have done all year I will continue to try and get as many people involved with ISFAA as I can I will just be a little more behind the scenes from now on. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 2022 ISFAA Winter Conference.



Candice Sutliff

“I feel very blessed to have been surrounded by such a supportive group of colleagues both at work and within ISFAA.”

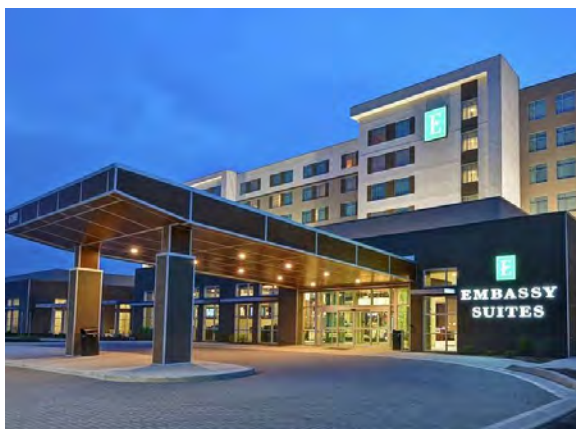
Going for the Gold...

Achieving the highest level... our goal for the 2022 ISFAA Conference. While attending conference you will hear from NASFAA, the Federal Government and the Commission of Higher Education.

The program is filled with many informative session topics including Veteran Affairs, Verification, Self-Help, R2T4, Awarding in the Summers and/or Modules, and many, many more exciting topics.

What a great way to network and enjoy time away from the everyday hustle and bustle. Join us on **February 2 – February 4, 2022** at the Embassy Suites in Plainfield for the 2022 ISFAA Conference.

Can't wait to see you all in person!!!



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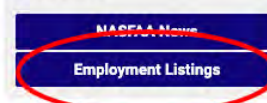
Remember that job posting you saw come through the ISFAA ListServ, but can't find the email? No worries, you can see the latest job opportunities at [ISFAA.org](https://www.isfaa.org). Simply head to the site and click on "Employment Listings" under "Quick Links".



Welcome to ISFAA

The Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA) is Indiana's financial aid professional organization. We are an association of college and university financial aid administrators, lenders, guarantors, and other associated organizations and individuals interested in helping students meet their costs for higher education.

Quick Links



One College Goal Sunday Done & Another Coming

College Goal Sunday returned to events hosted at sites as opposed to a virtual event last month and the result was more FAFSAs filed! The first of two College Goal Sundays in the '21-22 school year took place November 7th with the next one coming fast in February. At the 38 sites across the state over 330 FAFSAs were filed!

Attendees were helped by the over 280 ISFAA volunteers. Survey responses were very positive as usual with "thank you" messages to the ISFAA members who gave up part of their weekend to

help with FAFSA filing. Over 99% of respondents said they "found College Goal Sunday helpful". Of those that completed a survey, a third were 21st Century Scholars, 42% are first generation students, and almost 9 in 10 were first time CGS attendees!

Again this year \$5,000 in scholarship money was offered to those attending College Goal Sunday on November 7th, and another \$5,000 will be available for those filing during the February 27th event.

Follow Indiana College Goal Sunday's social media pages to keep up with the latest information as planning for the next College Goal Sunday is already taking place. The Facebook page is [Facebook.com/IndianaCollegeGoalSunday](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaCollegeGoalSunday) and our Twitter page is [Twitter.com/CGSIndiana](https://twitter.com/CGSIndiana).

Enjoy these pictures from the November sites sent in to us from all over Indiana and thank you again to the amazing volunteers who make it all possible!



more photos continued on page 7

ONE COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY DONE & ANOTHER COMING— CONTINUED



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Executive Committee Member Focus

Gina Pirtle



Gina Pirtle

1) Please tell Bits and Bytes about your current position at IU-Northwest.

Currently, I am the Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships where I manage a small staff of 4.

2) How did you get your start in Financial Aid?

I love my story. I was hired in Accounts Payable at a small private college in 2002. I caught on rather quickly. Near the end of 2003, there was a huge shake up in the financial aid department. They needed a lot of help. The leadership at the college encouraged me to change departments. I loved all the challenges financial aid offered. I had to learn so much. I'm proud to say, one of the first things I learned on my own was how to reconcile state aid. I read the manual and the rest was history.

3) Tell us about your current role(s) with ISFAA and being on executive committee.

I only became actively involved with ISFAA recently. Prior to my employment at IU Northwest, there was literally no time for anything related to professional organizations. I am grateful to Danielle Hayden for her encouragement. I am an introvert, but she saw my enthusiasm in training sessions and encouraged me to do more, which led to my run for delegate-at-large. It has been eye-opening. A lot of work is done behind the scenes.

4) You have been involved with financial aid for 17 years. Do you have a memory about a student(s) you helped that stands out in your mind that shows the good work that FA folks do?

I have been an adjunct for Business and Accounting for Ivy Tech since 2010. I often convince my students to continue their education at a 4-year Institution. Often those students

Continued on page 9

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FOCUS — CONTINUED

follow me as I convince them that their education can be affordable as I offer to personally assist them through the financial aid process. As a first-generation college degree recipient, I use my personal experience to inspire them.

I was especially hard on one accounting student who was going through a tough time in a relationship. I quickly refocused his attention because he was extremely bright. He followed me to IUN. He did extremely well and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. He went on to land a highly sought-after position at a big time accounting firm in downtown Chicago. It changed his life.

5) Please tell us about any other leadership roles you've had involving financial aid.

I appreciate how university leadership recognizes that financial aid could be used to leverage enrollment and retention. Because of that, I'm often on committees to give input on best practices to accomplish enrollment and retention goals.

6) You joined ISFAA in 2006. Please share your thoughts about the organization after 15 years as a member...

It's possible I was too busy to really notice the value of being a member until recently. Early on, I braved changing regulations alone. Financial aid is constantly changing. ISFAA

helps members navigate those changes while also providing training, professional development and a sense of belonging. The comradery of our financial aid community is like no other.

7) What is your favorite thing about your profession?

I think a post-secondary education can be a great equalizer for underserved communities. Affordability is at the heart of this challenge. Financial aid is the key. I love that students having access to financial aid can be life transforming and a generational curse breaker because poverty is a curse.

8) Do you have a least favorite thing about your profession?

Financial aid is heavily regulated, which is challenging. I suppose anything this valuable should be. It may be one of my least favorite things, but it is necessary.

9) Do you have any thought or message that you would like to pass along to the other ISFAA members?

There seems to be a great migration from higher education to other professions for many reasons. I encourage ISFAA members to stay in it and fight for the changes needed to make the profession what you need it to be. We are desperately needed. No one can walk off the street and do what we do.

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Inaugural 21st Century Scholars Report

In 2012, Indiana set a goal that at least 60 percent of working-age Hoosiers will have a quality college degree or credential by the year 2025. The Commission for Higher Education facilitates the state's progress by providing actionable and meaningful statistics on postsecondary education outcomes in a variety of [reports](#). In addition to existing reports on College Readiness, College Enrollment and Completion, and College Equity and Achievement Gaps, the Commission recently released its first report on the 21st Century Scholars program.

Since 1990, Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program has been leading the way as a model for early college promise programs across the country. It's Indiana's promise to students that no matter life's circumstances or obstacles, college is an option for them.

The impact of the program in Indiana has been immense. More than 45,000 students have earned a credential or degree through the program, and over 100,000 students are enrolled currently, from seventh graders to college seniors.

21st Century Scholars are more likely to:

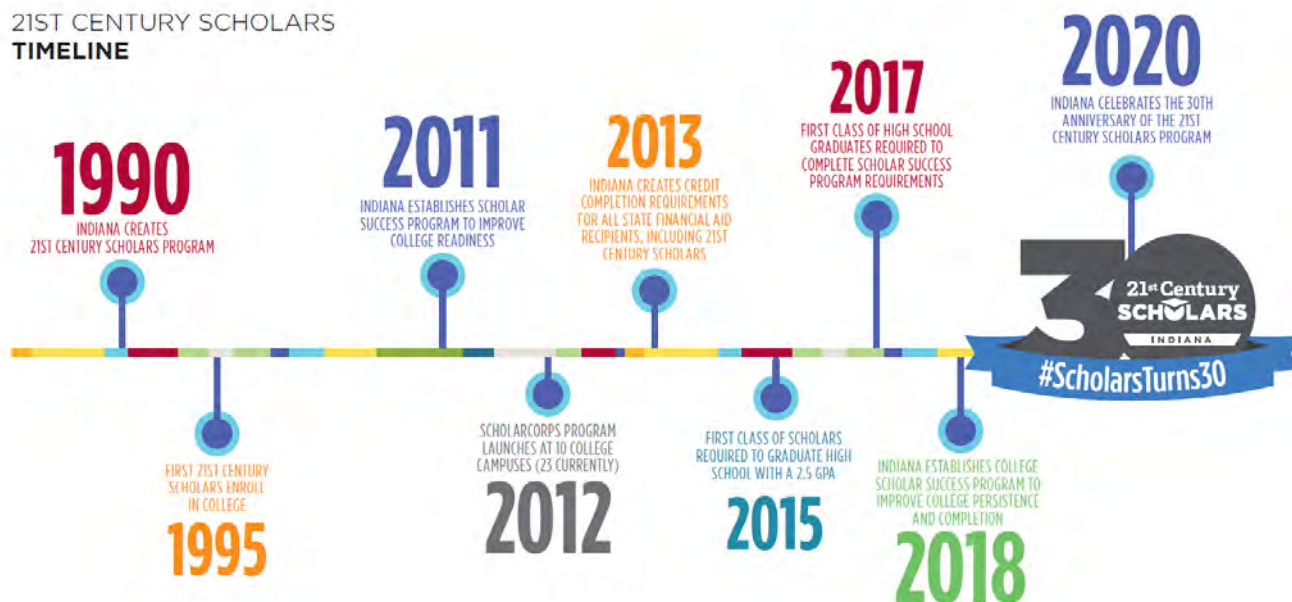
- Be college-ready than their low-income peers (including taking and earning dual credit or Advanced Placement courses while in high school)
- Go to college than all high school graduates
- Complete college than their low-income peers

Key Takeaways:

- Since 1990, more than 45,000 Hoosiers have earned a degree with the 21st Century Scholarship.
- Nearly 9 in 10 qualifying Scholars go to college right after high school (88 percent), greater than the state average of about 6 in 10 students.
- Scholars are more likely to outperform and graduate college on time with Scholars' overall on-time completion rate 17 percentage points higher than their low-income peers.
- Scholars' college completion rates have improved significantly over the past decade, increasing overall from 20 percent to 37 percent between 2010 and 2016.

- Most high school Scholars complete the Scholars Success Program (SSP), a requirement to maintain eligibility that helps prepare students for postsecondary success with 70 percent of high school Scholars now completing SSP.
- One in 10 high school graduates is a Scholar, but four in 10 high school graduates are financially eligible for the program, which indicates a greater need to sign up more low-income students while in 7th and 8th grade and help them maintain scholarship eligibility.
- Race/ethnicity and gender play a role in who becomes a Scholar. The percentage of White and Asian students who are enrolling as 21st Century Scholars is higher than the percentage of Scholars from other racial and ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, women make up a larger share of 21st Century Scholars than men.

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS TIMELINE



Indiana Schools and Organizations Promoting College Goal Sunday



7:20 PM · Nov 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



3:30 PM · Nov 5, 2021 · Twitter Web App



3:18 PM · Nov 5, 2021 · Twitter for Android



2:50 PM · Nov 5, 2021 · Salesforce - Social Studio



10:00 AM · Nov 7, 2021 · TweetDeck

College Goal Sunday
10:47 AM · Nov 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Thank you to all the November 2021 College Goal Sunday Volunteers

Alex Samuel	Carol Lynn Whitesel	Dawn Suggs
Alex Williams	Carolyn Gassmann	Deborah Woods
Alexa Braun	Carrie Bishop	DeeDee White
Alexandra Szymanski	Carrie Foster	Denise Ndukwu
Allison Staley	Carrie kline	Dennis Tedrow
Allison Strange	Carrie Sherer	Derek Schapiro
Allison Stubbs	Casey Trela	Desmond Delgado
Allyson McKelvey	Cassie Sutt	Destinee Beeler
Amanda Fishman	Cathy Nickens	Dominic Schillizzi
Amanda Gowin	Celeste Cara Nicola	DoMonique Brock
Amber Blakeman	Chanda L Rodski	Donette Cassman
Amber Sullivan	Charlette Sauders	Donna Bakel
Amy Houser	Charmaine O'Quinn	Donna Bevington
Amy Parraga	Charmaine Wardell	Donny Mimms
Angie Martin	Chelsea Martin	Dr. Verleash Jones
Angie Snapp	Chelsi Stallings	Ed Ertel
Anita Reed	Chris Boylan	Edgar Ocelotl-Tecuanhuey
Anita Smith	Chris Brown	Elaine Parrish
Ann Kreicker	Chris Maggart	Elaine Yednak
Anne Marie Gerritsen	Christian	Elizabeth Murray
Annette Hoopingarner	Christine Allred	Ellen Barbour
AnnMarie	Christy Tollett	Elvia
Aprill Woods	Cindi M Sabo	Emily Collins
Ashley Suggs	Cindy Hutcherson	Emily Hutsell
Barbie Martin	Claudia Saenz	Erin Brindle
Becca Sinclair	Colby Shank	Erin Pierce
Ben Westrick	Connie Fidanza	Ezalea Allen
Brad Monts	Connie Sivertson	Felecia Hawkins
Brad Remmenga	Connor Sherwood	Fran Hardin
Brandon Kuntz	Cyndi Lang	Fred Jackson
Brenda Marion	Cynthia Perez	Gabrielle Madison
Brian Allred	Dakota Bullock	Gary Carter
Brian McDonie	Daniela Rios	Gary Rigley
Brianna	Danny Enciso	GeNe'
Brittney Chesher	Dara Bishop	Gina Pirtle
Caleb Fendrich	Darla Hopper	Glenn Vann
Cameron D Myers	Datreena Anthony	Gloria Jones
Cammi	David Reseigh	Grace Selis
Candice Sutliff	Dawn Lawless	Gregory Wayne Thornburg

Thank you Volunteers continued...

Haley Elgin
Heather Buhr
Heather Cooper
Heather Frye
Heather L Ferren
Heather Lisco
Heather Wellons
Heidi Lovellette
Hilary Hillenbrand
Jacqueline Kennedy-Fletcher
Jakob Breunig
Janna Shepard
Jarret Whitehead
Jasmine Thomas
Jennifer Ng
Jennifer Rusk
Jennifer Shelley
Jenny Hallard

Jeremy E Ruiz
Jessica Underwood
Jhordan Lee
Jill Sammons
Joanna Riney
Joe N. Zachery, Jr.
Joel Short
José Medina
Josie Pyke
Jovita
Julie Byrd
Julie Wade
Julie Wonderlin
Juliette Kniola
Justin Robinson
Kahra
Karen Davis
Karen Matthews

Karen Nelson Heavin
Karen Pierce
Karen Riddle
Karina Palos
Kathleen Cusson
Kathrine Kurosky
Kathryn Slesseman
Kathy Carr
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Keisha White
Kellam Venosky
Kelly Karickhoff
Kelly Manning
Kelly Rose
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Kimberly Lewis
Kimberly SimsFagan
Kimberly Thalmann
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Kristyn Slesseman
Kurt Harris
Lacy Neberieza
Lanee Stitt
Laura Hapner
Laura Ping
Lea Dunbar
Lentine M Stewart

Lesli Marnewick
Letise Jenkins
Lisa Bridgewater
Lisa Brinkley
Lora Zoll
Lorie Williams
Lorraine Lovig
Lula Robertson
Lynn Roberson
Madison Pershing
Mandy Porter
Marcy
Margaret Bergamini
Maria
Maria Rios
Marie Agnew
Marilyn Simpson

Mariola Hernandez
Mark Frank
Martina Stokes
Marty Case
Mary Champion
Mary Haynie
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Megan Rains
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Melissa Andres
Melissa Belcher
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Thank you Volunteers continued...

Meredith Dittfield	Richard A Nash	Tamarya
Michael Montgomery	Robbie Smith	Tammy Herschberger
Michael W. McClure	Robert Smiley	Tammy Robbins
Michelle Ashcraft	Robert Sommers	Tammy Runyan
Michelle Short	Robyn Lamey	Tanika House
Mike Kreicker	Rolene Eddy	Tashawnda Brown-Weston
Mike Szakaly	Sally Ponce	Taylor Davis-Redman
Nate Bickel	Sara Ellinger	Te'Aire Storm
Nickie Roberts	Sara Monday	Tene Ones
Niki Hockenberry	Sara Uebelhor	Terri Vasquez
Nikki Cardinal	Sarah Soper	Theresa Murphy
Nina Loesch	Sarah Storms	Tina Filbert
Owen Thomson	Sarah Wandless	Tressie Dunbar
Pascia Tompkins	Sean Riley	Trudy Weddle
Pat Garvin	Shawnie Johnson	Tsianina McCain
Patt McCafferty	Sofia Qualitza	Vanessa Freeman
Paul Frieбус	Stacey Jamili	Veronica Gallardo
Penelope Hash	Stan Law	Vicki Strack
Qiana Hall	Stan Werne	Vickie Montgomery
Quinton Skibinski	Stanley Law	Vicky Crippin-Lake
Rachel McHenry	Stephen Wolma	Virginia "Ginny" Washington
Rachel Meyer	Sue Allmon	Wendy Railing
Rachel Morgan	Sunah Flores	William Wozniak
Randy gorden	Susan M Mayberry	Yolanda
Reagan Ayala	Suzanne Dillman	Yolanda McMillian Freemon
Rebecca Lampa	Sylvia Phillips	YSolis
Regan Hooker	Tabitha Kingsbury	Zachary Cullum
Ria Sanford	Tabytha Ardoin	Zachary Reel



Mark Your Calendar

**College Goal Sunday is
February 27 th , 2022**

**Look for volunteer registration to open
after the first of the year.**

Comings and Goings

...and other tidbits of association news

Sue Allmon

Comings

Jenny Hallard has joined the staff at Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington as an Assistant Director of Financial Aid.

We welcome **Andee Huxhold** to the IU-South Bend staff as their new Financial Aid and Scholarship Counselor. She started her new position on December 6th.

Taylor Davis-Redman joined the financial aid office at IU-South Bend on June 28th and is a Financial Aid and Scholarship Counselor. Cyndi asked her to introduce herself, so here she is:

I am currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in Social Work. In my free time I like to do crafting with drawing, painting, crocheting, and sewing; I also love to read and am always looking for a new book. Learning about financial aid has

shown me a new path to helping others and I am excited to continue learning new things every day. I am passionate about helping others and being a financial aid counselor helps me achieve that.

Transitions

Nathan Lohr, previously Associate Director of Financial Aid at IUPUI has been named Director of Financial Aid at the University of Indianapolis. Nathan began his new role in June.

Ann Crozier, FA Counselor and Student Services Coordinator for Butler University has moved to Assistant Director of Compliance.

Continued on page 17

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Promotions

Lisa Bridgewater has received a promotion at IUPUI! As of November 1, 2021, she was promoted from Assistant Director to Associate Director of Client Services. Congrats Lisa!

Goings

Doug Hess, Financial Aid Director for Purdue University, Fort Wayne has resigned and accepted the Executive Director of Vermillion County Economic Development Council. A very smart man who realized time with family is the most important thing! We shall miss you as part of the ISFAA family!!

Sarah Froderman, Associate Director for Indiana State University has accepted a job outside of our field of financial aid. She will start her new position on January 3, 2021 with the State of Indiana in the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Good luck Sarah, you will be missed!

Goings

Toni Mattingly, FA Counselor and Assistant for Compliance is leaving Butler University in February after 11 years for warmer pastures (smart move Toni!).

Retirements

Deb Quirin, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, began her financial aid career at Butler University May, 2005 and has announced that she will be retiring February 4, 2022. Congratulations Deb and we so hope you enjoy your retirement!

Joni Byrd, Purdue University, is retiring from the university on December 31, 2021. Enjoy your retirement!

Cheryl Dixon, Purdue University, is retiring from the university on December 31, 2021. Enjoy your retirement!

Theresa Bunch, Purdue University, is retiring from the university on December 31, 2021. Enjoy your retirement!

Continued on page 18



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Visit www.studentconnections.com or email contact@studentconnections.com to learn more about how you can help your students on their path to success.

COMINGS AND GOINGS — CONTINUED

Donna Stayer, Purdue University, is retiring from the university on January 31, 2022. Enjoy your retirement!

Good News Announcements

Ann Franzen-Roha, retired Financial Aid Director at Ivy Tech Community College-Richmond wrote to say she and her husband have relocated to Rockville, MD to be closer to her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter who just turned a year old. She wrote that she missed everyone in Indiana. But hey, who wouldn't make that change for granddaughter?

Deaths

We are sad to inform the membership that **Lori Love**, Assistant Director for Graduate and Online Programs, University of Indianapolis, passed away on November 15, 2021 after a long illness, during which time she fought valiantly. Here is a quote from the campus announcement: Since joining the University of Indianapolis in 2008, Lori worked tirelessly in the Office of Financial Aid to connect students with the financial assistance they needed to complete their education. Thanks to her efforts, Lori helped countless students stay in school and fulfill their dreams.



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perks...



Upcoming Trainings

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP): Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Hosted by IUPUI, located in downtown Indianapolis, IN from 10am-noon.

To register, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SatisfactoryAcademicProgress>

Registration will close Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 5pm.

Direct Loans: Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Pre-conference event location: Embassy Suites, Plainfield from 8am-noon.

To register, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Direct_Loans

Registration will close Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5pm.

Student Eligibility: Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Pre-conference event location: Embassy Suites, Plainfield from 10am-noon.

To register, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Student_Eligibility

Registration will close Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5pm.

ON THE HORIZON...

Future NASFAA Credential training sessions, locations and registration dates:

- March: Professional Judgment @ IU-Northwest.
Registration will open January 3, 2022.
- April: Return of Title IV Funds @ IUPUI.
Registration will open February 1, 2022.
- May: Verification @ IU-Northwest.
Registration will open March 1, 2022.



Bits and Bytes

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